

## ATHS 2010 NEWSLETTER

2010 was an active year for the Aston Township Historical Society. We began the year by helping Rose Valley Historical Society and Nether Providence host a program held at Hedgerow Theater in January. Nancy Webster presented a standing room only program about a great number of topics. At the end of January, society Vice-President, Pat Smith, was the speaker for the local women's club meeting. Due to a major winter storm the day prior, the February meeting had to be rescheduled for March, and the program for the meeting was the Duffy's Cut project. This concerned the lives and deaths of 57 Irish immigrants who died during the 1832 cholera epidemic while building the Philadelphia to Columbia Railroad. Sadly, one of the speakers from this program, Mr. John Ahtes, suddenly passed away during 2010. Ruth Ross attended the Heritage Commission seminar held at the end of March.

The society's new website was up and running as of April. <http://www.athsdelco.org> is the place to visit. May 1<sup>st</sup>, Pat Smith attended the Chester Heights Fair and had a table for the society at this event. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, the society received an award from The Heritage Commission for the January program held at Hedgerow Theater. May 7<sup>th</sup> was the day Pat Smith and Bob Farrell took a cannon ball, some photos, etc., to Pennell Elementary School for Pennsylvania Day, and all went well. The May meeting had a fascinating program by Robert Wittman of Robert Wittman, Inc. He worked for many years for the FBI in the recovery of stolen art, antiques, and jewelry. Charter member, Anne Lazinsky, passed away on May 16<sup>th</sup>. She was the sister of the society's founder, Paul L. Dougherty. Also during May, Paul Dougherty's booklet, Growing Up In Aston Mills, was available for the price of \$5.

There was an Open House held at the Village Green School on a sultry Sunday at the end of June. A few visitors came to see the one room school. The township was approved for a CDBG of \$30,074 for climate control and other improvements to be done at the school. It is unknown when the township will actually receive the funds, though. August 1<sup>st</sup>, was another Open House at the Village Green School with about 50 visitors attending. It was learned later that Helen Phillips, who had been a society member, passed away also on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Sometime during the summer, local Eagle Scout, Michael Volpe from Troop 225, led a project at the Village Green School of painting the inside window frames and outside wood trim. The booklet, Growing Up In Aston Mills had its second printing in August.

In September, some members of the newly re-formed Middletown Township Historical Society came to the historical museum. We shared some photos of Middletown Township for an upcoming project they have. The program for the society's September meeting was Carol Fireng. She spoke about Colonial Era clothing and how people dressed during that time.

The Aston Business Expo and Community Day was held the first Saturday of October. The society made \$406 on the raffle. Kevin O'Dowd and Linda Brown were the winners of the Giant gift card raffle prizes. The Aston Business Association donated a large wooden wall display case to the society handmade by John Stokarski, Inc. It is in the

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hallway of the Aston Community Center. The booklet Growing Up In Aston Mills had a 3<sup>rd</sup> printing.

November's society meeting was very well attended. Bruce Knapp and Jane Davidson from the Chester County Historic Preservation Network gave a very informative program about Sears Catalog Homes.

At the end of 2010, the historical society received a \$250 donation from the Aston Business Association.

The **February, 2011, meeting will be held on Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Aston Municipal Building located next to TD Bank.** The scheduled speakers will be Jerry and Kim Fink who have been restoring historic houses for many years and currently reside in what was once Hillwood Farm on Pennell Road.

**Dues are now due for 2011:**

Single membership is \$10. Family is \$20. Organization/Business is \$50.

Please make checks payable to **Aston Township Historical Society.**

Please mail them to: **Ruth M. Ross  
5 Red Hill Road  
Aston, PA 19014**